

Eighty-eight years ago, in January of 1911, Mexican revolutionaries of the Partido Liberal Mexicano (PLM) invaded and liberated the border city of Mexicali, Baja California Norte from the military forces of Porfirio Diaz dictatorship. This after a decade of organizing labor strikes and calling for armed uprisings in both Mexico and the United States. With their cry for "Land and Liberty" these revolutionary heroes led a powerful resistance to the United States domination of Mexico. The liberation lasted a few months, and Ricardo Flores Magon, a founding leader of the PLM was forced to live in exile in Los Angeles, CA where he continued to struggle by organizing Mexican workers here, and radicalizing the political and labor movements in the United States through his work. In 1922, Ricardo Flores Magon died in a U.S. prison for his crimes of resistance. The Magonista challenge to connect our peoples' struggle across borders and tactical divisions is alive today. Our peoples' history is a record of heroic sacrifices. Our obligation is to go beyond what those before have lived and died for.



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CONSULTA ZAPATISTA 1999



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What is the Consulta Zapatista 1999?

The Consulta Zapatista is an opportunity for the voices of people in Mexico and abroad to actively challenge the Mexican political system. It is a call for the democratic mobilization of civil society to dialogue on the recognition of the rights of Indian peoples and for an end to the war of extermination. The Consulta actively engages people ordinarily alienated from the current political voting process and provides an inclusive and meaningful alternative method of political participation. The guidelines are as follows:

Consulta Stages

FIRST > Promotion & Diffusion

SECOND > Territorial Organization

THIRD > Execution - March 21, 1999

FOURTH > Diffusion of Results

FIFTH > Surrender Results to the Mexican Congress



Goals of the Consulta:

GOAL: To disseminate on a national level the complete absence of political rights in Mexico.

GOAL: To expose & explain the lack of indigenous rights in Mexico.

GOAL: To build organizational & political capacity of resistance through dialogue with progressive sectors and immigrant communities.

GOAL: To carry out grassroots democracy through the popular ballot and methods of popular education in contrast with the Mexican federal elections 2000.

Consulta Accords

1. The process of preparation, diffusion and execution of the Consulta will come through a broad, open and inclusive mobilization.
2. The particularities of each *municipio*, region and state will be recognized, as

How Can You Participate?

Participate in the Consulta:

- Study materials related to Consulta
- Make a commitment to aid in the Consulta on March 21
- Tell friends and family to join the Consulta effort
- On March 21 fill out Consulta
- On March 21 aid in rides for those which need them to fill out Consulta

Organize a Brigada for the Consulta:

- Organize a group of people to work in your community
- Identify all relevant gathering points in your community
- Maintain an informational effort on the issues of the Consulta
- Make arrangements for location where Consulta will be carried out
- Use creative methods to advertise the Consult
- Work closely with the Brigada Flores Magon to coordinate efforts



The Role of the Consulta in the States

International Scrutiny:

As the "Low Intensity" War rages on in Chiapas, and few if any coverage is given by Corporate Media, it is vital to the survival of the Zapatista Communities that the world maintain an eye on the occurrences in that area. The participation of people in the U.S. focuses attention on those issues. We can not only spark interest in Chiapas, but also expose the human rights violations through the media coverage the Consulta draws. With the added attention, it becomes even more difficult for the PRI government and its neoliberal allies to strike militarily. It can be seen in history that when the attention is turned away from the conflict, governments tend to carry out some of their most repressive attacks.

Support for Indigenous Rights and an End to the War of Extermination

As supporters of Peace, Dignity, and Justice, it is our responsibility to adhere to the call for participation put out by the EZLN. In supporting the Consulta, we support indigenous rights and the end to the War of Extermination. In order to truly support a cause or movement it is important to act on the words that we say. Furthermore, we need to not only support for the sake of supporting, but actually participate in that very reality that they wish to create. To simply say we support the Consulta would mean nothing if we ourselves would not participate in it. To support the Zapatista Communities is to believe in their politics, and to believe in those politics is to bring them to life here in the States.

An Alternative in Political Participation:

As elections come and go it is clear that fewer and fewer people feel they are a part of the political process. We are told that non-voters are apathetic, lazy, and simply don't care. When in reality, they are simply tired of the alienation in the voting process. In fact their non-vote is by default a vote against the entire political process. For the most part, many of these same people would become active participants in a political process if given an alternative that made sense. The Consulta will provide an opportunity for the concerns and wishes of those which are never heard to be heard. Since 1994 the Zapatistas have given the theory of popular democracy a face and voice. The Consulta is a step in the direction of this very popular democracy we speak of. The hope is that this alternative will be the beginning of a wide spectrum of alternative methods of political participation. Popular democracy can be best described by the 7 trabajos developed by the Zapatista Communities.

well as the specific forms of political participation among indigenous peoples, and the rights of Mexicans abroad.

3. All Mexicans above the age of 12 can participate without concern for their employment, social position, color, religious beliefs, political militancy, sexual preference, language and culture both within the Republic of Mexico, as well as abroad.

4. The Consulta for the recognition of indigenous rights and for the end of the war of extermination shall be executed on Sunday, March 21, 1999, simultaneously across the country and in those places in the rest of the world where Mexicans decide to organize and participate.

5. The Consulta will be conducted by secret ballot in urban and rural zones and by the method of the customs and traditions in indigenous and rural communities in the country which decide to do so.

6. The questions which make up this consultation regards the following:

Consulta Questions

Question 1. Do you agree that the indigenous peoples must be included with all their wealth and force in the national project and take active part in the construction of a new Mexico?

Question 2. Do you agree that Indigenous Rights must be recognized in the Mexican Constitution as established by the Accords of San Andrés and the corresponding proposal put forth by the Commission on Concordance and Pacification to the Mexican Congress?

Question 3. Do you agree that we should reach true peace through dialogue, demilitarizing the country with the return of the soldiers to their quarters as established by the Constitution and other laws?

Question 4. Do you think the People must organize and demand form the government that it "govern by obeying" in all aspects of national life?



Accords of San Andres

Accords of San Andres Timeline

- February 1996** Accords of Concordance and Pacification with Justice and Dignity signed between Mexican federal government and the EZLN.
- November 1996** Commission of Concordance and Pacification presents and initiative on indigenous rights, EZLN accepts initiative - Zedillo does not and presents an second initiative.
- March 1998** Civil society & PRD impede passage of Zedillo's illegitimate initiative.
- July 1998** EZLN emits the Fifth Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle:
- * EZLN reasserts the collective will of the indigenous peoples in the Accords of San Andres.
 - * EZLN calls for the National Consulta on the Initiative of Indigenous Law of the Cocopa and for the war of Extermination



Demands of the Indigenous People



FUNDAMENTAL DEMANDS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF MEXICO

AUTONOMY – a people's collective right and ability to freely determine their own destiny with constitutional recognition and governmental respect for the jurisdiction of this right even though it may surpass that of individual indigenous communities.

TERRITORY – a people's right "to the sustainable use and all benefits derived through use of the natural resources of the territories occupied or utilized in some form. With this indigenous peoples decide how best to exploit the natural resources to the benefit of the entire community without harming the ecology.

PEOPLE-HOOD – a people's right to be recognized as an entity with well established collective rights and free association among majority indigenous areas without restrictions as original inhabitants of this land.

CULTURAL NORMS – a people's distinct ways of establishing social harmony and solving problems collectively. These normative systems must be determined by indigenous people as they enforce their jurisdiction in accordance with their autonomy without interference from federal, state, or local authorities.